XCVII. *A further Account of the Caſe of the Family at* Wattiſham, *in* Suffolk, *whoſe Limbs mortified: In a Letter from* Charlton Wollaſton, *M. D. F. R. S. and Phyſician to* Guy's Hoſpital, *to* Thomas Birch, *D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society.*

Dear Sir, Pall-Mall, Oct. 29, 1762.

Read Nov. 11, 1762. DR. Heberden ſome time ſince communicated a letter from me, giving an account of a moſt remarkable mortification of the limbs, which had affected a whole family in Suffolk. As the ſociety may be curious to know ſome farther particulars relating to this ſingular calamity, I thought it might not be improper to acquaint them, that moſt of the unhappy ſufferers have ſurvived it.

The father is perfectly recovered; except that the two fingers, which were particularly affected, remain in ſome degree contracted.

The mother is ſtill alive. In my former account dated April 13, I mentioned, that one of her feet had ſeparated at the ankle; and that the other leg was perfectly ſphacelated to within a few inches of the knee, but not then taken off. Some little time afterwards the huſband broke off the tibia, which was quite decayed, about three inches below the knee: the fibula was not decayed; ſo the ſurgeon ſawed it off. The ſtumps of both legs ſtill continue unhealed; and as the ends of the bones in both of them ſeem to be carioſe, and the woman will not conſent to any farther operation, they may perhaps never

never heal. The mortification however has not, in this limb, nor indeed in any one of theſe caſes, ſpread beyond the original ſeparation. Her right arm is conſiderably waſted, and the fingers contracted.

The eldeſt girl, Mary, died within a few weeks after I ſaw her.

The ſecond girl, Elizabeth, is perfectly well: the ſores quite healed.

The third girl, Sarah, is not yet well. Her foot ſeparated at the articulation of the os ſcaphoides with the aſtragalus. The os calcis, and aſtragalus, are both of them carioſe, and probably keep the wound from healing.

The two boys are perfectly recovered; and ſeem in every reſpect as healthy as poſſible.

I have taken all the pains I could to enquire into the cauſe of ſo remarkable a diſorder; and Mr. Bones, the miniſter of the village, who knew the family before this misfortune happened to them, and has ever ſince been indefatigable in his attention and tenderneſs to them, has alſo made all the enquiry in his power: but we have not been able to find, that there was any thing particular either in their diet or manner of life, to which it could be attributed. The corn, with which they made their bread, was certainly very bad: it was wheat, that had been cut in a rainy ſeaſon, and had lain on the ground till many of the grains were black and totally decayed: but many other poor families in the ſame village made uſe of the ſame corn without receiving any injury from it. One man loſt the uſe of his arm for ſome time; and ſtill imagines himſelf, that he was afflicted with the ſame diſorder as Downing's family: but, by what I

could learn from him, there ſeemed to be no reaſon for this ſuppoſition. He is long ſince perfectly recovered.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient

Moſt humble ſervant,

Charlton Wollaſton.

XCVIII. *Obſervations on the Tides in the Iſland of St.* Helena: *in a Letter from the Rev.* Nevil Maſkelyne, *A. M. F. R. S. to* Thomas Birch, *D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society.*

Reverend Sir,

Read Nov. 18, 1762. NOT having met with any obſervations of the tides made in a place ſo near the line as this, or at an iſland ſituated in the middle of ſo large an ocean, I was deſirous of making ſome experiments on this ſubject. For this purpoſe I had a poſt about 10 foot long erected in a convenient place in the harbour before James's fort, which was the propereſt ſituation that could be found, being to the leeward part of the iſland, where ſhips may ride at anchor ſafely all the year round.

One ſide of it was painted black, over which white ſtrokes were painted at the diſtance of 3 inches,